



New Castle Crier

The official newsletter of New Castle City

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New Castle, Delaware

April 2007

State delays ban of yard waste at landfill. *Now what?!?*

The last two issues of this newsletter have detailed how the collection of yard waste within the City will change, since the State banned yard waste disposal at the landfill where the City dumps its garbage. Just recently, the State announced that the effective date of the ban at the landfill for yard waste material has been delayed until January 15, 2008.

Because the ban is not permanently lifted and is only delayed, the City is continuing to ask residents to separate

household trash from yard waste. From the State's perspective, separation of these materials is optional this year, however will be mandatory next year.

It was in 2004 that the New Castle City Council, however, adopted a local law governing yard waste recycling. That City Ordinance requires that grass, branches and leaves be separated from household garbage. The City routinely makes a separate yard waste collection

on each Wednesday, roughly from April to October.

Grass should be placed curbside in either trash cans or in paper bags. Branches left by the curb should be in bundles no larger than 2 feet around by 4 feet in length, and nothing larger than 8-inches in circumference.

Please call the Public Works Section of the Public Services Department, at 322-9813, with any questions about yard waste or other solid waste or trash collection matters.

VOTE

Saturday April 14, 2007

Property Tax Exemptions

For information on applying for the Over 65 or Disability exemption, call Marian Delaney at 322-9811. Yearly income requirements: \$12,500 single and \$25,000 married. Social Security is not counted. Last day to apply is June 15th.

Notice of Election

City of New Castle, Delaware
Saturday, April 14, 2007

Vote for Positions of:

Mayor

President of Council

Four Council Members

City Clerk ♦ City Treasurer

All Qualified Voters Can Vote At:

Good Will Fire Hall
4th & South Streets

Polls Open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

City of New Castle
Election Committee

New Castle – The First Capital City!

Message from the Mayor

Of all the powers the City government has, the most important are those dealing with Planning. We can pass laws regarding traffic signs, speeding, health codes, etc., but those involving planning and its related zoning and building codes have the most lasting impact on the future. In the 1950's, when Council passed the Zoning Code which created the Historic District with its many controls, this shaped the City for the future more than any other ordinance. (At the time, I was a freshman Council member.)

The development of that Comprehensive Code involved funding from the Ford Foundation, Federal and State governments, as well as the Trustees of New Castle Common. It was "comprehensive" because it involved all our citizens and all aspects of our lives, school,

library, Municipal Services (water and electricity), police, taxes, recreation, traffic, etc. Since that original study, the City has had several updates.

Today the City is much different from 50 years ago. The original premises are no longer

valid. We need a "fresh" look at our planning.

I propose that the next Council work together to involve our citizens in a "new" Comprehensive Plan that will meet the needs of our citizens and the future of our town. Your participation is encouraged!

Parks and Recreation news

By Councilperson Janet Churchill, Dir., Parks & Recreation
Playgrounds

New equipment has been purchased and installed for our six City Playgrounds: Bull Hill, Buttonwood, Dobbinsville, Penn Valley, Susi and Van Dyke. The Trustees purchased additional land to make it possible for a permanent Playground at Penn Valley. Plans are underway for a Playground in the Washington Park area. The Playground at Battery Park is run by the Battery Park Committee of the Trustees of New Castle Common.

Recreation

Our City's Summer Recreation Program will run from July 9 through August 17, at Battery Park, for children ages 5 to 14 who reside within the City limits. The program includes outdoor activities, field trips and many planned events. Registration and sign-up information will be available June 1. For information call 322-7489.

Citizen volunteers sought for committees

Interested in serving on a City committee? Send a letter to Council President William G. Blest, City Admin. Bldg., 220 Delaware St., New Castle, DE 19720; or e-mail wgblest@newcastlecity.org.

The next
City Council
meeting is 7 p.m.,
Tues., April 10 at
Town Hall

Election Reminders

Applications for
Absentee Ballots
are Now Available at the
City Offices (Delaware St.)

Deadline to Submit
Absentee Ballot:
Noon on April 13

City Election:
Saturday, April 14
8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Good-Will Fire Co.

Code Enforcement Corner

The City of New Castle Board of Health strives to keep properties in conformance with adopted rules and codes. To report any problems or file a complaint, please call Code Enforcement Officer John Lloyd at 302-323-6081. Listed below are some pertinent policies.

Vacant, unsecured properties: Chapter 141

Vacant properties must be maintained the same as occupied properties. They must also be secured.

Animals: Chapter 94

It is unlawful to allow your pet to defecate on any public or private property without the consent of the property owner. If this occurs, it must be cleaned up immediately. State law requires that all animals be under the control of the owner at all times.

Solid Waste - Trash: Chapter 204

Trash containers need to be at *the curb* for pickup no earlier than 6 p.m. the night before, or no later than 6 a.m., the day of pickup. Containers need to be off the street by end of the pickup day.